

Remembrance and France Trip

In the run up to Remembrance Day, students had the opportunity to show their respect by painting Poppy Rocks and producing art made from recycled materials. On Friday the 11th they took this work to various war memorials around Dover and Deal to pay their respects. A week later a selection of students travelled to the Western Front in Northern France to visit Lochnagar Crater, Thiepval Memorial, Fricourt German Cemetery and the Museum De Somme. An inspiring visit which will no doubt have a lasting impact on all that went.



Learning Opportunities

Independent Specialist School

Termly newsletter

Science

The year 7's have had a great term learning about plants making detailed display linking art with Science. They have also been experimenting with rocks and soils.



The year 8's have been investigating how materials change when heated and the Year 9's have been learning how to separate mixtures.



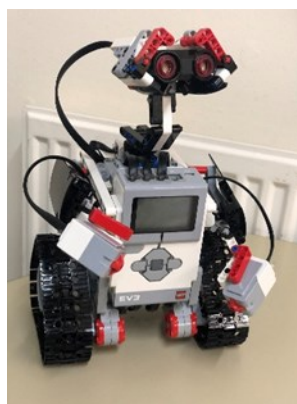
Computing

KS4 pupils have all been working hard earning badges for their bronze Idea award.

The year 7's have been learning how to use block programming creating great animations in scratch.

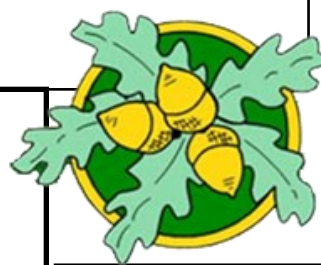
The year 8's have been editing photos and creating animations using the iPad and plasticene.

Wall-e the robot was built by the year 9 class who then spent time programming him to investigate the class.

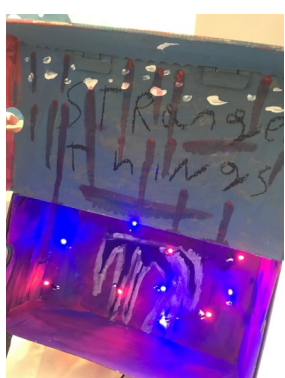


Hellos & Goodbyes

Sadly we said goodbye to Luke this term. He will be missed by all and we wish him all the success in his new ventures.



LOC Gallery



CM-Stanger Things Diorama



MK—Remembrance Day Poppy Installation



Year 9 Light and Mirrors



Year 10 GCSE Sculpture



BM— Still Life Oils

Dates for the diary

Students return to school on
Wednesday 4th January.

February half term starts on Friday 10th February.

Words from the head teacher

As you can see from all the information on the newsletter, this has been an incredibly busy term. It has been wonderful to see our new students settle in so well to life at Learning Opportunities and develop positive relationships with staff and students alike. Further up the school students continue to prepare for exams, attend work experience and college visits in preparation for their next steps in the summer.

Amidst all this, as you know, we had an extremely positive visit from Ofsted and it was wonderful to read their comments. We have already started thinking about next steps and we look forward to seeing Ofsted again in a few years time!

Next year will no doubt be just as full of fun and learning. As always, if you have any questions, thoughts or ideas about the school please do get in touch. Have a wonderful Christmas, see you all in 2023.

LIFE SKILLS

In LifeSkills this term students have had the opportunity to demonstrate some important skills related to garden maintenance and food safety. As well as spending time working in the school garden and polytunnel, the year 10's have visited local parks and nature reserves to see the important work carried out by the National Trust and The Kent Wildlife Trust and seen how their work supports local wildlife. In addition, all students have had the opportunity to take part in work linked to food safety. As well as spending time preparing food, students have also learnt about the importance of good hygiene and how to keep ourselves and other safe in the school kitchen.



This term we have been exploring brain chemicals. Knowing how our bodies react in certain situations can really help us understand our difficult times and then also help us find healthy ways to recover.

The first important chemical we introduced to the students was DOPAMINE- the reward chemical in our brain that helps us with memory, attention, concentration and also helps us feel JOY.

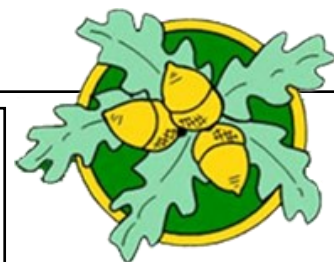
Dopamine is triggered by human contact like a hug, after just 6 seconds our body releases Dopamine and we can feel calmer and relaxed. In Thrive we drew on each other's back and had to guess what had been drawn - even that brief physical contact provided smiles and laughs from all.

We also tried out ice water hand baths! Cold water also increases Dopamine levels and just 30 seconds with our hands in an icy washing up bowl had incredible effects-give it a try-a quick easy way to change how you are feeling.

We have been encouraging good eating and sleep patterns as poor sleep and diet can lead to a reduction of Dopamine which means less joy.

Physical activity, music, art, the outdoors, food, trying something new, meditation, fruit all help boost Dopamine.

I look forward to hearing which techniques you have tried over Christmas to help you all have a wonderful joyous break.



Pause with PSHE

This term the year 7's have covered First Aid and study skills. 8's have studied alcohol awareness and careers. 9's have looked at substance misuse and setting targets for the future. 10's have looked at their mental health and making positive financial decisions including looking at gambling. 11's have been looking at their next steps and their mental health. 9's, 10's and 11's also went on a train safety day. 7's and 8's will attend in the new year.



English

This term has been about non-fiction writing, the year 7's have written to our local MP about improvements and road safety. 8's have looked at what makes a hero and written diaries. 9's have looked at Harry Potter and how to save rainforests! 10's continue to focus on their GCSE English and are creating their own island and advertising it with a leaflet. 11's have looked at Anne Frank and have been doing mock exams! Well done they have all achieved great marks in their mocks.

Down in DT

This term students have focussed their attention on designing and constructing a personalised money box. This has demonstrated their ability to measure, cut and secure various sizes before finally painting and varnishing their projects. Students were given the opportunity to install a grommet for easy access whilst others chose to completely seal their boxes. See below a selection from across both Key Stages. Well done!

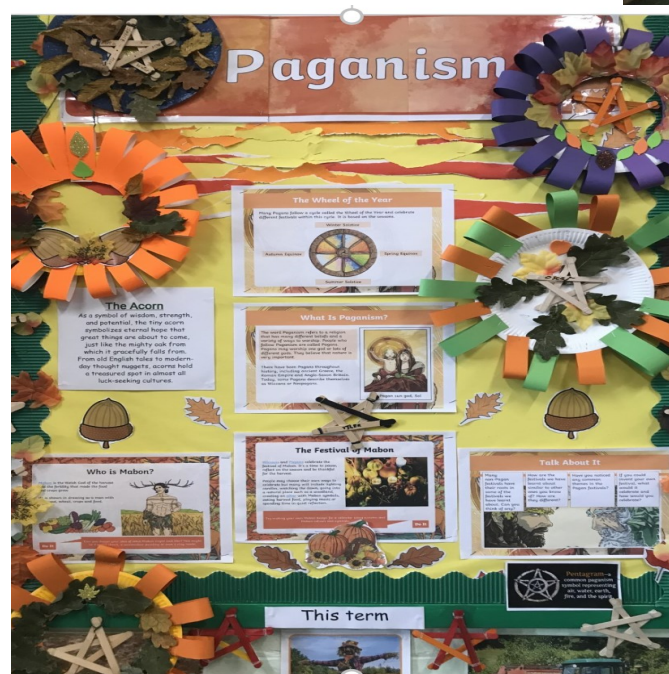


Cookery Corner

Another busy term in food tech, KS4 have been learning to evaluate their cooking using sensory evaluation with great results and some excellent dishes made. KS3 have looked at baking and have practised cake and pastry skills for life.



Belief weeks



Judaism week



Unleavened Bread



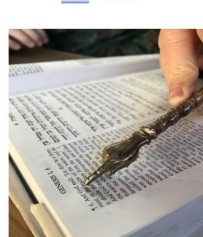
The Torah



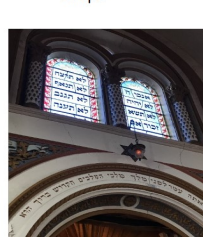
Grape



The Scrolls



A Yad (hand)



Ten Commandments

We had an amazing time, it was truly memorable. Dharlia and her son Sam were great hosts. Our students asked lots of questions and listened carefully.

At Learning Opportunities, learning about different faiths and religions supports our work to prepare students to understand and appreciate diversity and difference. Religious Education aims to give pupils opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of religion and beliefs and to contribute to the development of their own beliefs and values. Everyone has their unique view of the world and Religious Education is about exploring these views. We deliver Religious Education through faith and belief weeks 6 times each year.